

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled)

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7. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating between computers interconnected by a communications network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving, at a deriving computer, a request from a client for transmission to the client of a user-selected version of a target file, the target file having particular informational content independent of its embodiment in a particular version;

(b) deriving by conversion the user-selected version from a materialized file from which the user-selected version is derivable if the user-selected version is not accessible to the deriving computer;

(c) transmitting, from the deriving computer to the client, the user-selected version;

(d) transmitting from the deriving computer to a server, responsive to receiving the request in step (a), a request for transmission to the deriving computer of a materialized parent file from which the user-selected version may be derived by conversion, step (d) being performed before step (b);

DI (e) transmitting, from the deriving computer to the client, a program for generating a menu of user-selectable versions of the target file, step (e) being performed before step (a);

~~The method set forth in claim 6, further comprising the steps of:—~~

(f) receiving, at the deriving computer, a file responsive to a request for transmission of the file originating from the client; and

(g) deriving, at the deriving computer, a default, low resolution, version of the file, the default, low resolution version being transmitted to the client responsive to the client's request for transmission of the file, steps (f) and (g) being performed before step (e), the menu generation program transmitted in step (e) being transmitted along with the default, low resolution version.

8. (Original) The method set forth in claim 7, further comprising the step of:

(h) generating a menu of user-selectable versions of the target file, the menu being generated by the menu generation program as determined by the versions materialized on the server and the versions derivable therefrom by the conversion software available to the deriving computer, step (h) being performed before step (a).

9-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method of communication of a user-selected version of a file to a client connected to a server by a communications network, a

version of the target file being materialized on the server, the method comprising the steps of:

- D1**
- (a) selecting, at the client, a hyperlink that is a single point of access to a target file to initiate transmission of a version of the target file to the client, the target file having particular informational content, the hyperlink being independent of any version of the target file;
 - (b) responsive to step (a), generating, at the client, a menu of user-selectable versions of the target file, at least one user-selectable version being derivable by conversion from a materialized version, the at least one user-selectable version not being materialized;
 - (c) selecting, at the client, a user-selected version of the target file from the menu; and
 - (d) receiving, at the client, the user-selected version of the target file.

28. (Original) The method set forth in claim 27 wherein a proxy for relaying communications between the client and the server connects the client to the server and wherein the proxy transmits menu-generation information to the client.

29. (Original) The method set forth in claim 28 wherein the proxy transmits the menu-generation information to the client along with a file transmitted from the proxy to the client.

30. (Original) The method set forth in claim 29 wherein the client generates the menu of user-selectable versions in step (b) from the menu-generation information.

31. (Previously Amended) The method set forth in claim 30 wherein the menu of user-selectable versions of the file comprises a selection for the materialized version of the target file.

32. (Original) The method set forth in claim 31 wherein the menu of user-selectable versions of the target file further comprises selections for a plurality of materialized versions of the target file.

33. (Previously Amended) The method set forth in claim 32 wherein the proxy comprises a memory cache for storage of files the method further comprises the step of:

(e) transmitting the user-selected version of the target file from the proxy to the client if the user-selected version is in the cache, step (e) being performed intermediate steps (c) and (d).

34. (Original) The method set forth in claim 33 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(f) deriving the user-selected version of the target file from a version of the target file resident in the cache if the user-selected version can be derived from a version resident in the cache by conversion, step (f) being performed intermediate steps (e) and (d).

35. (Original) The method set forth in claim 34 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

DI (g) requesting and receiving a materialized version of the file at the proxy if the user-selected version of the file is not resident in the cache and is not derivable from a version resident in the cache, step (g) being performed intermediate steps (f) and (d).

36. (Original) The method set forth in claim 35 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(h) transmitting the materialized version of the target file to the client if the user-selected version is the materialized version, step (h) being performed intermediate steps (g) and (d).

37. (Original) The method set forth in claim 36 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(i) deriving the user-selected version of the file from the materialized version of the target file by conversion and transmitting the user-selected version of the target file to the client, if the user-selected version is derivable from the materialized version, step (i) being performed intermediate steps (h) and (d).

38. (Original) The method set forth in claim 37 wherein the single point of access is a hyperlink displayed at the client.

39-55. (Canceled)

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56. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating between a client and a server interconnected to the client by a communications network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a client's request for transfer of a file having particular informational content;

(b) identifying a parent file embodying the informational content;

(c) deriving, by conversion of the parent file, a derived version of the parent file, the derived version being a predetermined low resolution version that is established as a default version for delivery of files before receipt of the client's request for the parent file; and

(d) transmitting the derived version to the client in response to the request

The method set forth in claim 54, wherein the proxy transmits a program for generating a menu of user-selectable versions to a client along with the default version, wherein the client's request is received at the server, and wherein the server transmits the parent file to a proxy for relaying a communication between a sender and a receiver, the parent file being materialized at the server, and the proxy derives the derived version.

57-59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating between a client and a server interconnected to the client by a communications network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a client's request for transfer of a file having particular informational content;

(b) identifying a parent file embodying the informational content;

D) (c) deriving, by conversion of the parent file, a derived version of the parent file, the derived version being a predetermined low resolution version that is established as a default version for delivery of files before receipt of the client's request for the parent file;

(d) transmitting the derived version to the client in response to the request;

(e) determining whether the default version of the target file is resident in a memory cache on a proxy computer in the communications network; and

(f) transmitting the default version of the target file from the cache to the client if the user-selected version is resident in the cache;

(g) determining whether the default version of the target file can be derived by conversion from any version of the target file resident in the cache; and

(h) deriving by conversion the default version of the target file from a version resident in the cache if the default version can be so derived; and

~~The method set forth in claim 59, further comprising the step of:~~

(i) requesting transmission from the server of a materialized version of the target file from which the default version may be derived, if the default version cannot be derived from a version resident in the cache.

61-75. (Canceled)